

**Timeline of Truth – A Dangerous Misunderstanding and Its Lessons (Joshua 22:10-34)**

<p><b>Joshua 22:10</b> <sup>10</sup> And when they came to the region of the Jordan which <i>is</i> in the land of Canaan, the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh built an altar there by the Jordan -- a great, impressive altar.</p>	<p><b>1. The Three Tribes _____ an Altar</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. They were on their way back to their land</li> <li>b. They built an altar             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. On the western side of the Jordan</li> <li>ii. A great, impressive altar Impressive – (noun) a sight, an appearance Lit. “..built an altar, a great sight.”</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><sup>11</sup> Now the children of Israel heard <i>someone</i> say, "Behold, the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh have built an altar on the frontier of the land of Canaan, in the region of the Jordan -- on the children of Israel's side." <sup>12</sup> And when the children of Israel heard <i>of it</i>, the whole congregation of the children of Israel gathered together at Shiloh to go to war against them.</p>	<p><b>2. The Rest of Israel _____ to the Altar</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. They received a report</li> <li>b. They gathered for battle</li> </ul>
<p><sup>13</sup> Then the children of Israel sent Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest to the children of Reuben, to the children of Gad, and to half the tribe of Manasseh, into the land of Gilead, <sup>14</sup> and with him ten rulers, one ruler each from the chief house of every tribe of Israel; and each one <i>was</i> the head of the house of his father among the divisions of Israel. <sup>15</sup> Then they came to the children of Reuben, to the children of Gad, and to half the tribe of Manasseh, to the land of Gilead,</p>	<p><b>3. Messengers _____ the Three Tribes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. A few Crossed the Jordan             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The priest</li> <li>ii. 10 rulers – one from each tribe</li> </ul> </li> <li>b. They came to the other tribes <b>Leviticus 17:8-9</b> <sup>8</sup> "Also you shall say to them: 'Whatever man of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell among you, who offers a burnt offering or sacrifice, <sup>9</sup> 'and does not bring it to the door of the tabernacle of meeting, to offer it to the LORD, that man shall be cut off from among his people.</li> </ul>
<p>and they spoke with them, saying, <sup>16</sup> "Thus says the whole congregation of the LORD: 'What treachery <i>is</i> this that you have committed against the God of Israel, to turn away this day from following the LORD, in that you have built for yourselves an altar, that you might rebel this day against the LORD? <sup>17</sup> 'Is the iniquity of Peor not enough for us, from which we are not cleansed until this day, although there was a plague in the congregation of the LORD, <sup>18</sup> 'but that you must turn away this day from following the LORD? And it shall be, if you rebel today against the LORD, that tomorrow He will be angry with the whole congregation of Israel. <sup>19</sup> 'Nevertheless, if the land of your possession <i>is</i> unclean, <i>then</i> cross over to the land of the possession of the LORD, where the LORD's tabernacle stands, and take possession among us; but do not rebel against the LORD, nor rebel against us, by building yourselves an altar besides the altar of the LORD our God. <sup>20</sup> 'Did not Achan the son of Zerah commit a trespass in the accursed thing, and wrath fell on all the congregation of Israel? And that man did not perish alone in his iniquity.' "</p>	<p><b>4. The Messengers _____ the Three Tribes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. An accusation of treachery             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Against the God of Israel</li> <li>ii. Turning away from following the Lord</li> <li>iii. By building an altar</li> <li>iv. Rebelling against the Lord</li> </ul> </li> <li>b. An example is given             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The iniquity of Peor</li> <li>ii. The result was a plague <b>Numbers 25:1-3</b> Now Israel remained in Acacia Grove, and the people began to commit harlotry with the women of Moab. <sup>2</sup> They invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. <sup>3</sup> So Israel was joined to Baal of Peor, and the anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel. <b>Deuteronomy 4:1-3</b> "Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I teach you to observe, that you may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers is giving you. <sup>2</sup> "You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<p>command you. <sup>3</sup> "Your eyes have seen what the LORD did at Baal Peor; for the LORD your God has destroyed from among you all the men who followed Baal of Peor.</p> <p><b>Psalm 106:26-29</b> <sup>26</sup> Therefore He raised up His hand <i>in an oath</i> against them, To overthrow them in the wilderness, <sup>27</sup> To overthrow their descendants among the nations, And to scatter them in the lands. <sup>28</sup> They joined themselves also to Baal of Peor, And ate sacrifices made to the dead. <sup>29</sup> Thus they provoked <i>Him</i> to anger with their deeds, And the plague broke out among them.</p> <p><b>Hosea 9:10</b> <sup>10</sup> " I found Israel Like grapes in the wilderness; I saw your fathers As the firstfruits on the fig tree in its first season. <i>But</i> they went to Baal Peor, And separated themselves <i>to that</i> shame; They became an abomination like the thing they loved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c. The consequences are explained <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Their rebellion</li> <li>ii. May cause God to be angry with all of Israel</li> </ul> </li> <li>d. A solution is offered <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. They should return to the west side of the Jordan</li> <li>ii. They can participate in worship at the tabernacle.</li> <li>iii. They would cease to be rebelling against the Lord and against the rest of Israel.</li> </ul> </li> <li>e. A second example is given <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Achan – committed a trespass</li> <li>ii. Wrath fell on the whole congregation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><sup>21</sup>Then the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh answered and said to the heads of the divisions of Israel: <sup>22</sup> "The LORD God of gods, the LORD God of gods, He knows, and let Israel itself know -- if <i>it is</i> in rebellion, or if in treachery against the LORD, do not save us this day. <sup>23</sup> "If we have built ourselves an altar to turn from following the LORD, or if to offer on it burnt offerings or grain offerings, or if to offer peace offerings on it, let the LORD Himself require <i>an account</i>.</p>	<p><b>5. The Three Tribes _____ the Charges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. They appeal to the omniscience of God</li> <li>b. They give two conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. If there is rebellion/treachery</li> <li>ii. If they are going to offer sacrifices</li> </ul> </li> <li>c. They give two consequences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Israel should not save them</li> <li>ii. God should require an account</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><sup>24</sup> "But in fact we have done it for fear, for a reason, saying, 'In time to come your descendants may speak to our descendants, saying, "What have you to do with the LORD God of Israel?' <sup>25</sup> "For the LORD has made the Jordan a border between you and us, <i>you</i> children of Reuben and children of Gad. You have no part in the LORD." So your descendants would make our descendants cease fearing the LORD.' <sup>26</sup> "Therefore we said, 'Let us now prepare to build ourselves an altar, not for burnt offering nor for sacrifice, <sup>27</sup> 'but <i>that it may be</i> a witness between you and us and our generations after us, that we may perform the service of the LORD before Him with our burnt offerings, with our sacrifices, and with our peace offerings; that your</p>	<p><b>6. The Tree Tribes Explain their _____</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. They were afraid <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Their descendants would forget they belong with Israel</li> <li>ii. Their descendants would see the Jordan as a political barrier.</li> <li>iii. Their descendants would see the Jordan as a spiritual barrier</li> </ul> </li> <li>b. The purpose of the altar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. To be a witness – testimony, evidence</li> <li>ii. That they may continue to participate in the sacrifices</li> <li>iii. That the western tribe would not disown</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<p>descendants may not say to our descendants in time to come, "You have no part in the LORD." ' 28 "Therefore we said that it will be, when they say <i>this</i> to us or to our generations in time to come, that we may say, 'Here is the replica of the altar of the LORD which our fathers made, though not for burnt offerings nor for sacrifices; but it <i>is</i> a witness between you and us.' 29 "Far be it from us that we should rebel against the LORD, and turn from following the LORD this day, to build an altar for burnt offerings, for grain offerings, or for sacrifices, besides the altar of the LORD our God which <i>is</i> before His tabernacle."</p>	<p>them. c. They reiterated that they would not rebel against the Lord</p>
<p><sup>30</sup> Now when Phinehas the priest and the rulers of the congregation, the heads of the divisions of Israel who <i>were</i> with him, heard the words that the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and the children of Manasseh spoke, it pleased them. <sup>31</sup> Then Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest said to the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and the children of Manasseh, "This day we perceive that the LORD <i>is</i> among us, because you have not committed this treachery against the LORD. Now you have delivered the children of Israel out of the hand of the LORD."</p>	<p><b>7. The Messengers are _____</b> a. Were pleased – lit. "It was good in their eyes" b. They reassure the other tribes i. The Lord is among us – lit. "the Lord is in our midst." ii. They reaffirm that the other tribes were not wrong in what they did. iii. The three tribes, by explaining what they did saved unnecessary bloodshed and the wrath of the Lord.</p>
<p><sup>32</sup> And Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest, and the rulers, returned from the children of Reuben and the children of Gad, from the land of Gilead to the land of Canaan, to the children of Israel, and brought back word to them. <sup>33</sup> So the thing pleased the children of Israel, and the children of Israel blessed God; they spoke no more of going against them in battle, to destroy the land where the children of Reuben and Gad dwelt. <sup>34</sup> The children of Reuben and the children of Gad called the altar, <i>Witness</i>, "For <i>it is</i> a witness between us that the LORD <i>is</i> God."</p>	<p><b>8. The _____ of the Matter</b> a. The messengers returned and reported what happened. b. The Israelites blessed God c. The Israelites relented from desiring to go to war. d. They named the altar</p>

**Takeaways:**

**1. Be Careful Not to Assume Falsely. Be Careful How You Approach Others.**

**Proverbs 18:13** <sup>13</sup> He who answers a matter before he hears *it*, *It is* folly and shame to him.

**Proverbs 18:17** <sup>17</sup> The first *one* to plead his cause *seems* right, Until his neighbor comes and examines him.

**Matthew 5:23-24** <sup>23</sup> "Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, <sup>24</sup> "leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

**Galatians 6:1** Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who *are* spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

**2. It is Important for Us to Be Reminded About God.**

**Ephesians 2:11-13** <sup>11</sup> Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh -- who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands -- <sup>12</sup> that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

**2 Timothy 2:8** <sup>8</sup> Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel,